



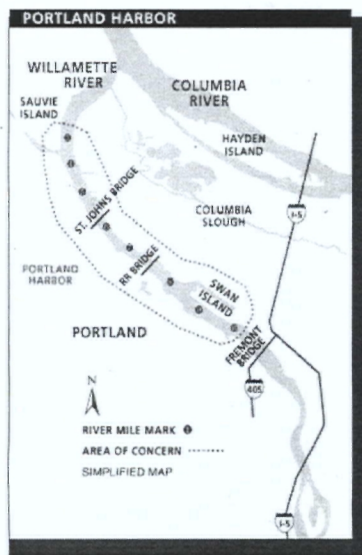
About the Site

Portland Harbor was added to the EPA National Priorities List of contaminated sites in December 2000.

Contamination in river sediments resulted from more than a century of historical industrial use along the river.

Sediments in the Willamette River are contaminated with many different hazardous substances, including heavy metals like mercury, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), dioxin/furans, and pesticides.

The site is located in and along the Willamette River near Portland, Oregon. The initial focus of the study was the heavily industrialized area between Swan and Sauvie Islands. The investigation currently extends roughly from the Columbia Slough to the Fremont Bridge. The final Superfund Site boundaries will be established in the Record of Decision.



What You Can Do

You can stay informed about the progress of the investigation by looking at documents on the EPA website, attending monthly meetings of the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group, or adding your name to the project mailing list. Please send an e-mail to smith.judy@epa.gov if you would like to be added to the Portland Harbor e-mail list.

For More Information

Environmental Protection Agency
Judy Smith, Community Outreach
smith.judy@epa.gov
503-326-6994

Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality
Marcia Danab, Public Information
danab.marcia@deq.state.or.us
503-229-6488

EPA: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/PtldHarbor>

DEQ: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/PortlandHarbor/ph.htm>

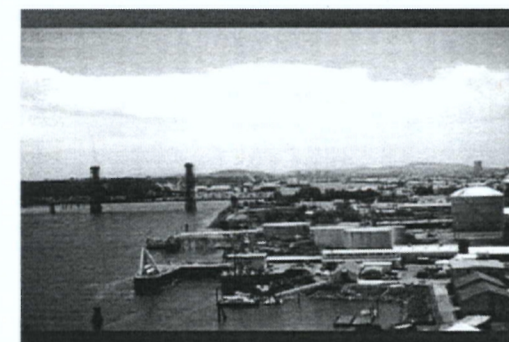
Select documents available at:

St. Johns Branch Library
7510 N Charleston Avenue

Northwest Branch Library
2300 NW Thurman Street

Multnomah County Library
801 SW 10th Avenue

Cleaning Up The Portland Harbor Superfund Site



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)



August 2008

What is being done?

Investigation - Cleanup begins with a thorough study of the contaminated site. The study, called a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) is well underway. The draft remedial investigation report, and the draft human health and ecological risk assessments are expected in early 2009.

Following the completion of the feasibility study, EPA will prepare a Proposed Plan that summarizes the findings and recommends a cleanup alternative. Then the public will review and comment on the plan. Finally, EPA will select a final cleanup remedy and issue a Record of Decision.

Early Actions - When problem spots are identified, EPA can take action to remove contamination from these specific sites without waiting for the investigation to be completed. Northwest Natural Gas and the Port of Portland are cleaning up contaminated sites through an early action agreement with EPA. Additional early action cleanups are in the planning stages.

Upland site cleanups and Source Control - Many current and former industrial sites along the banks of the Willamette River are sources of contamination to the river. DEQ is the lead agency for work on upland sites and has voluntary cleanup agreements with many facilities.

Who pays for the investigation and cleanup?

The Lower Willamette Group (LWG) is completing the RI/FS under EPA oversight. The LWG is made up of ten potentially responsible parties (PRPs) who have legal agreements with EPA to complete this task.

In addition, EPA is in the process of identifying additional PRPs who may be responsible for paying their share of cleanup costs. EPA sent letters to almost 300 additional parties in 2008.

Portland Harbor, Fish and Your Health

After the site was listed, scientists gathered and analyzed tissue samples from fish living in Portland Harbor. They analyzed the data to find out if the contamination is being stored in the tissues of the fish.

Elevated levels of contaminants such as PCB's and mercury were confirmed. This information will be used to complete the human health and ecological risk assessments for Portland Harbor.

In addition, the Oregon Department of Human Services used the information to update the fish advisories for the Willamette River.

Who is providing oversight?

- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Nation
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
- The Nez Perce Tribe
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- U. S. Department of the Interior

